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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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on the mainland

Communist China

conditions

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[redacted] Sun-Wan Heung (2450/ 3883/ 6703) [redacted] is one of the biggest villages in Chungshan district, and there are many people and much cultivable land [redacted]

As to [redacted] small village, Sun-Sha village (2450/ 3097/ 2625), there are about forty thousand "mou" of cultivable land, and about 6,000 people in population. Among the 6,000 inhabitants, about 2,100 people are classified as members with "labour capacities", according to the official announcement made by the People's Commune [redacted]

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age

[redacted]

[redacted] In winter 1949, the Communists came into the Chungshan district to take over the government.

At that time, the Communists had set up the "Chungshan District Military Control Commission, Village Work Section" (6511/ 0057/ 4619/ 2455/ 2585/ 6703/ 2625/ 1562/ 0155/ 4809) which sent out many of its Communist cadres to go around the village to make investigations and records, and thus put everybody in the village under a shadow of fear and discomfort.

[redacted]

During the Communist land reform, the Communists classified a number of people as landlords and rich farmers, whom they persecuted with great cruelty. Many of the landlords and rich farmers were put to death in the public trials.

[redacted] all the landlords and rich farmers were very badly treated and many had died out in the process of the land reform.

[redacted]

In the Communist land distribution, [redacted] the share for each individual, whether adult or child, was 5 "mou" of land

At that time, the land [redacted] could produce about 7,000 catties of grain in one year. After deducting a third of that amount to pay government dues to the Communists, [redacted] could keep about 5,000 catties of grain, and that was almost sufficient for the consumption of [redacted] four people.

But that was the condition only in the early days of the Communist land reform. In 1954, the Communists changed their way of buying "surplus grain" (7411/ 4752), that is, the Communists began to assess the food consumption of every farm family and any amount of food in excess of their fixed rate of consumption are considered as "surplus grain" and all of it must be sold to the Communist government.

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Consequently, all the profit of the farmers were thus taken over by the Communist government. At the same time, the quantity they assessed for the consumption of each farm family was so little that the farmers could not have enough rice to eat and must pass their days in partial starvation all the time.

Ever since the Communists came to power, they step by step increase their control over the villages, in farm production and in the personal freedom of the village population.

Their control continued to be tightened year after year, first through the Peasants' Union (6593/ 2585), then the "mutual help groups" (0062/ 0504/ 4809), then the "big united groups" (1129/ 5114/ 4809), and by September 1956, the Communists brought into formal existence the Primary Agricultural Cooperative.

In principle, a Primary Agricultural Cooperative was to be set up in every Heung (0001/ 6703/ 0001/ 4357), that is big village, while in each of the small villages there is one branch agricultural cooperative.

After the formation of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative, only continued to live in conditions very similar to the former times. allowed to keep the amount of grain assessed as the rate of maintenance, and any amount in excess of the fixed quantity was considered as "surplus grain" and bought over at an official rate by the Communist government.

There is one Sales and Supplies Department set up in the Primary Cooperative which is supposed to sell all the secondary provision to the villagers. But its stocks are very scarce. At the same time, because most people do not have the money to buy the secondary provision they want, this Sales and Supplies Department contributes very little to serve the convenience of the village inhabitants.

In 1957, October, the Primary Cooperative was changed to be called the Higher Agricultural Cooperative. The inner composition of the Higher Agricultural Cooperative is almost the same as that of the Primary Cooperative, except the fact that it has opened up many new sections in the Cooperative office, and at the same time there was a great increase of the number of personnels in the Cooperative administration.

Most of the new staff members that come in are either members of the Communist Party, or of the Communist Youths Organization, and some are government officials sent down to the villages under the "Ha Fong" movement.

The main change that came about under the Higher Agricultural Cooperative is the total abolition of all private properties.

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The Higher Cooperative went out to confiscate all the private properties of the villagers, such as farmlands, grain storage, farming buffaloes, farm tools, fish ponds, fishing gears, and all kinds of structures set up for agricultural uses.

At the same time, it is compulsory for all the people in the village, whether they are farmers, fishermen, or farm labourers to do various kinds of work for the Higher Cooperative. If any villager should refuse to take part in the work for the Higher Cooperative, then they are not allowed to get any rice ration from the Higher Cooperative.

The rice ration is distributed from the Higher Cooperative according to the number of people in each household. For every month an adult can get 50 catties of grain, and a child can get 30 catties of grain.

All the members of the farm household, as long as they have to live on the rice ration distributed by the Higher Cooperative, must take part in the Collective Labour on the Higher Cooperative.

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In October 1958, a People's Commune was set up in Tau-Moon Heung (2435/ 7024/ 6703/ 0086/ 3046/ 0361/ 4357) which

came to govern Sun-Wan Heung (2450/ 3883/ 6703) as one of its subordinate branch communes.

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But from the middle of November 1959, Sun-Wan Heung (2450/ 3883/ 6703) came out to set up an independent People's Commune of its own, and all the people became members of the Sun Wan Heung People's Commune (2450/ 3883/ 6703/ 0086/ 3046/ 0361/ 4357).

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In the Sun Wan Heung People's Commune, the commune chairman and vice-chairman are concurrently the head and deputy head of the village government.

But aside from these two senior executives, all the others have their jobs solely engaged with the everyday working the Commune office and are not allowed to hold any other job in the village government.

There are about 20 staff members in the Commune administration, in which there are about 6 or 7 government officials sent down in the "Ha Fong" movement. The People's Commune is organized as the equivalent of a military regiment. A regiment has 4 battalions, a battalion has four companies and a company has 4 production teams. Each production team has from 60 to 100 members.

Sun-Sha village (2450/ 3097/ 2625) is classified as a battalion.

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whenever there is a rush of work, then all the people must work, eat, and sleep on the work grounds, and frequently for many days do not see each other in the family.

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The People's Communes, in order to abolish the system of family livings, undertook to set up mess halls in the village, and every member is required to eat all the meals in the mess halls.

The "big caldron cooked rice" (1129/ 7000/ 7391) as this system of group eating is called, at first provided the rice for members to eat as much as they want to.

At that time, many members were quite happy with the mess halls, and happy with the new Commune system, because they feel there is some improvement in their living conditions. But in January 1959, it was announced that the daily meals were cut down to two meals a day, and at the same time, the rice portion allocated for each individual member was limited to 6 taels of rice for every meal.

One catty of raw rice is to be cooked into two and half catties of cooked rice and every member is to have 15 taels of cooked rice. That was definitely not sufficient for the members, and all the members began to complain for the insufficient rice portions. Eventually in May 1959, the mess hall gave out to each member one bowl of sweet potato for every meal as supplementary food, but since then the subsidiary food was cancelled, and only one bowl of salt water was provided to serve as appetizer.

Then on 25th, June, the mess halls finally announced that it is to stop cooking rice for the members, and instead, grain is to be distributed to the members to bring home to cook for themselves.

The grain is to be distributed in the mess halls, and each individual is given different rice portions, depending on the labour capacities with which he is classified.

For members with labour capacities, four grades are classified, namely, first grade 32 catties of grain every month, second grade 31 catties, third grade 30 catties and fourth grade 28 catties. For members without labour capacities, such as children and old folks, each gets 26 catties of grain every month.

There are public nurseries and children's houses set up, but since the first days of its formation, it was not popular with the members, because the accommodations of these houses are very crude and inadequate.

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At the same time, the people in charge, that is, a woman Communist cadre serving as officer-in-charge, and some female attendants, are usually negligent in their duties of looking after the children, and frequently use harsh treatment or beat up the children whenever they like.

However, many members still had to put their children in the public nurseries and children's house, because the children can get free food in the nurseries, while members who wish to keep their children at home must feed their own children with food they save up from their own meals in the mess halls.

Then [redacted] when all the mess halls were closed down, the public nurseries were also closed down. [redacted] although there is still the name of public nursery and children's house, they are only to serve as playground for the children to play while their parents go out to their own daily works.

[redacted] When the People's Commune was first organized, it advertized that it is going to take care of all the details of the daily living of the members, under the so called "package care" (0545/ 3237).

Under this advertized system, the Commune intended to give free services to their members in all detail matters, such as haircut, and medical treatment in the public dispensaries.

But [redacted] it began to charge the members 10¢ for each haircut, and 10¢ for each time of seeking medical treatment from the public dispensary. In case special medicine are required by the members, they are to be procured and bought by the private money of the members. This condition remains [redacted]

[redacted] All members of the People's Commune, whether they possess labour capacities or not, are required to do some kind of work for the Commune. Members with labour capacities are assigned into the production teams. The main line of work for the production teams are for cultivation of farmlands. And then from time to time, the production teams are also assigned to "special work targets" (6391/ 0117/ 0523), such as repairing roads, refining steel, and [redacted]

[redacted] the building of dykes and the prevention of floods, etc/ Members without labour capacities are assigned to lighter jobs, such as working as attendants in the mess halls for cooking the rice, cutting firewood, collecting firewood, collecting wild weeds, cleaning the streets, collecting nightsoil, etc.

As average, the daily working hours come to about 12 hours, but in times of rush for "special work targets" (6391/ 0117/ 0523) the working hours are often extended to 16 (sixteen) hours everyday. The hardship of such over-work is really unspeakable.

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As to wages under the Commune, [redacted] the hardest working members in the production team [redacted] every month, aside from getting free food in the mess halls, [redacted] only get about \$2.50 jenminpiao in wages. But worst of all, beginning from the month of May, 1959, there was no wages distributed to anybody in my village.

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As soon as the Communists came [redacted], they made loud talks about "workers turn over to the top" (1562/ 0086/ 5060/ 6500) and about "worker taking charge of the house" (1562/ 0086/ 3981/ 1367).

At that time, the construction company [redacted] closed down for poor business [redacted]

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At the same time, because of the unstable conditions after the change of government, the construction business was in a state of paralysis, practically without customers of any kind.

In the first three years after the Communists came into Yan Ping city, there was no way to earn living had to do various kinds of small jobs to earn bits of money to take care of family maintenance, such as that of colliers, stevedors, daily jobbers, shoemakers, etc.

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After the Communists came they set up an organ called the General Labour Union of Yan Ping city (1869/ 1627/ 1562/ 5114/ 2585).

When it was first set up, it advertized that it could help the workers to solve the problems of unemployment and also the problem of better living and working conditions.

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At first

were required by the regulation of the General Labour Union to go there everyday for "Learning and Practice" (1331/ 5045) and also to hold meetings and to make reports to the Association about daily living.

Then in 1952, when the Communists carried out their "Three Anti Movement" and "Five Anti Movement" (0005/ 0646/ 0063/ 0646/ 6663/ 0520), the General Labour Union gave orders that all the people that registered with the Union must take part in the mass demonstrations and in very frequent public meetings. And that again took some more private time. But as to finding jobs and daily living, the General Labour Union did not seem to care the slightest bit.

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get a job, through the recommendation of the General Labour Union. to work as labourers to build the People's Stadium of Yan Ping District (1869/ 1627/ 4905/ 0086/ 3046/ 6663/ 0520/ 1034).

had to work for at least 12 hours everyday, and for everyday's work, could get 1 catty and four taels of rice, plus 156 jenminpiao as wages.

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[redacted] Kei-Ou Island, an island in the mouth of the Pearl River, all separate from the mainland. Therefore [redacted] in name it is subordinated to Tong-Ka-Wan Heung (0781/ 1367/ 3494/ 6703). [redacted]

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[redacted] Prior to the Communist regime, [redacted] cultivated 5 "mou" of farmland leased from the landlord. The yield [redacted] was about 400 to 500 catties of grain every year from one "mou" of land, but there was not much of secondary products. 25X1

From the farmland [redacted] there was a yearly production of about 2,000 catties of grain. After deducting 400 catties of grain [redacted] to pay as land rent to the landlord, the remainder was not sufficient for [redacted] consumption. Therefore [redacted] in addition to farm cultivation, must do some fishing to make up the deficiency of [redacted] income. 25X1

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[redacted] As soon as the Communists came into Chungshan district, they carried out the "village purification movement" (3237/ 6703/ 1562/ 0155), that is, their battle of extirpation against all the anti-Communist guerillas and resistant inhabitants [redacted]

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At that time, the Communists were very serious in this mopping operation, and many of the village inhabitants that were round up were either put on trial, imprisoned, or executed. 25X1

[REDACTED]

During the Communist land reform, because there are so many landlords and rich farmers in Tong-Ka-Wan Heung (0781/ 1367/ 3494/ 6703) and the Communists were so feverish in the execution of the land reform, that there were almost public trials and big "struggle" meetings held everyday, in which the landlords and rich farmers were so severely tortured [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on the island there were three families classified as small landlords, who were sent over to the big village at Tong-Kwa-Wan for public trials. But because their so called crimes were not as serious as the others, they were only subjected to brief sentences of imprisonment or labour reform, and after they served their full term of penalty, they were allowed to return to the native village to take part in the collective labour of production under the agricultural cooperatives/ 25X1

At present they are all called "Labouring people", and the name of landlords or rich farmers had totally disappeared from the daily talks of the village people.

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[REDACTED]

In the Communist land distribution, the share for each individual was two "mou" of land. 25X1

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[redacted] in 1956. August, the Heung-Chow Primary Agricultural Cooperative was set up, and [redacted] Kei-Ou village came under it as one of the branch cooperatives.

Then the organ of Primary Cooperative was first set up, the Communist government announced that it is to be a guiding production organization set up on the basis of cooperation between the Communist government and the village people, with the purpose of increasing the output of production.

But even in those early days, [redacted] had serious doubts about the Communist announcement, because from the experience of living under the Communists for several years, [redacted] no matter how good the Communists speak of something they introduce, the new things, no matter what name they assume, are never designed to serve the benefit of the people. 25X1

About three months after it was set up, the Primary Cooperative did accomplish one main work, and that was a thorough understanding it had acquired about the overall conditions of production and consumption of the families in the village. And from that, it could pave the way for the setting up of the Higher Cooperative.

After the Primary Cooperative had made a clear record and estimate of the general condition of consumption of the people in the village, the Communists set up a Sales and Supplies Department inside the Primary Cooperative to supply the daily needs of the villages.

But owing to the shortage of daily essential goods and also owing to the universal poverty of the people in the village and their lack of purchasing power, there is oftentimes the conditions of "no supplies and no demand" (0180/ 3061/ 0408/ 4814), when the Sales and Supplies Department could go on without doing any business for many days at one stretch.

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[redacted] In September 1957, the Higher Agricultural Cooperative was set up [redacted] which undertook to abolish all the private properties of the villagers. In the process of asking all the villagers to surrender their private properties to the government, many farmers came up to oppose the government measure and in some places there were even public disturbances, but the Communist quickly sent out troops to suppress the oppositions, and eventually all the farmers had to bear the whole thing in silence.

After the Higher Cooperative took away all the production tools from the individual farmers, the villagers could no longer live on their own resources. Consequently they must take part in the collective labour of production as ordered by the Higher Cooperative.

In the daily work of the collective labour of production, [redacted] work everyday for at least from ten to twelve hours. There was no way [redacted] to run away from the daily work, or even to slacken down [redacted] because as soon as the Communist cadres should find that out, the Higher Cooperative could suspend [redacted] rice, without which [redacted] could find no way to live. 25X1

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(10) Continued.

According to the rate of rice portions under the Higher Cooperative, an adult can get 50 catties of grain every month, and each child can get 30 catties of grain.

The time of the Higher Cooperative was also the time for the Communists to talk very loud about the movement of the Great Leap Forward. Under this new movement, [redacted] working time was often extended to 14 to 16 hours every day, right to the latest hours every night.

Many villagers fell sick under the strain of overwork, but the Higher Cooperative never paid much attention to that. Only those who are seriously sick are allowed to remain home or go to hospital for medical treatment.

As to those who are slightly ill, they are told to administer "self-cure in the local spot" (1432/ 0966/ 4070/ 7402). By this it is meant that the villagers can get some patent medicine from the Hospital, and then they must still go out to work and take their medicine with them to take at the work grounds.

Under the Higher Cooperative, there are many times that rice produced in the local areas were collected and put down in ships to be sent away to Sheekee city or Canton city. Every time when rice is being shipped away from the villages such as Tongkawan (0781/ 1367/ 3494), Kei-Ou island (3217/ 3421) Hum-Hao (0974/ 0656) and Sha-Mei (3097/ 1442), many local villagers would look on with great grief in their hearts, because while there is rice to be shipped away from their villages, they still must pass their days in continuous hunger all the time.

[redacted] the Heung Chow People's Commune (7449/ 3166/ 0086/ 3046/ 0361/ 4357/) was set up in October 1958.

But in January 1959, the Heung Chow People's Commune was reduced to a branch commune and it came under the administration of the Tongkawan People's Commune (0781/ 1367/ 3494/ 0086/ 3046/ 0361/ 4357).

In 1958, April, the Higher Cooperative [redacted] set out to draft a number of workmen to go to Lin Shan (6647/ 1472) an area about 25 miles away [redacted] to cut and collect fir trees as timber to send to Canton.

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The total number of the people in the group was 27 men [redacted]
It was not until March 1959 [redacted], when the work was considered as completed

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The Lin Shan timber camp (6647/ 1472) is organized by the Canton Municipal Government, Construction Material Supplies Bureau (1684/ 1558/ 1579/ 1696/ 4639/ 2624/ 2436/ 0180/ 2019/ 5710).

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Its main job is to cut and collect timber from the fir trees and ship them back to Canton. All the workmen in the timber camp are drafted from the adjacent villages. Aside from the 27 [redacted] drafted from the Tongkawan village there are over a hundred others from the other villages, amounting to a total of about 150 workmen in the timber camp.

All the workmen were released from their draft [redacted] when the work was considered as accomplished.

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[redacted] in Linshan timber camp, all movements of the workmen were group movements. There are ten working hours everyday, and two rest days in every month. Within the timber area every workman is free to move to everywhere he likes. There are three meals served everyday, and for each meal, every workman can eat as much rice as he likes.

Aside from the free meals, every workman can get 86 jenminpiao as the monthly wages, for his pocket money, or for remittance back to their native villages for family maintenance.

In the timber camp area there are police patrol to take up guard duties and to help control the workmen in the timber camp. [redacted] in the timber camp, all the clothes and sleeping blankets were provided on loan by the timber camp. These clothes and blankets were to be returned to the timber camp authorities [redacted] All the clothes and blankets bear conspicuous marks of different numbers, just like the clothes of prisoners.

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[redacted] in the public mess hall, two meals are served everyday. Labouring members could get one more bowl of sweet potato soup each meal. Then in May [redacted] could only get 8 taels of raw rice, that is, 20 taels of cooked rice, and even the sweet potato soup was cancelled. This was much below the need of the members who have to do strenuous works.

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On 1st, June, the public mess hall was closed down, and the Commune undertook to distribute rice to the individual members. There were two main kinds of rice portions, one for members in labouring production, and one for the non-labouring members. The non-labouring members only get 22 "market catties" of rice, that is, equivalent of 17.5 full catties for every month. As to the labouring members, they are again divided into several grades. Those of the highest grade can get 42 "market catties" (equivalent to 33 full catties of rice) every month, while the lowest can only get 22 "market catties" equivalent to 20 full catties of rice.)

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